

SENATE BILL 4018

By Woodson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
Chapter 4, Part 9, relative to postsecondary
financial assistance from net lottery proceeds.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-902, is amended by adding the following as new, appropriately designated subdivisions:

() "Academic requirement" means any requirement based on academic achievement, including, but not limited to a specified grade point average, ACT or SAT score or cumulative grade point average, that determines either initial eligibility or continuing eligibility for postsecondary financial assistance from net lottery proceeds;

() "Nonacademic requirement" means any scholarship eligibility requirement other than an academic requirement;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 9, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

§ 49-4-9__.

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of this part to the contrary, a student who as an entering freshman meets all nonacademic requirements for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship, but the student does not meet the requirements of § 49-4-907(3) or § 49-4-908(2), as applicable to the method by which the student completed high school, shall be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship at the end of any semester at which the student is named to the student's eligible postsecondary institution's dean's list for academic achievement; provided, that the student meets all applicable nonacademic requirements for the scholarship at such time.

(b) A student qualifying for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship pursuant to subsection (a) shall continue to be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship, if the student meets all nonacademic requirements for the scholarship and continues each semester to meet the institution's requirements for inclusion on the dean's list. A student failing to meet the academic requirements for continuation at the end of a semester, may regain the scholarship one (1) time by making the dean's list at the end of a subsequent semester. A student who, under this section, loses the scholarship, regains it and then loses it a second time may not regain the scholarship.

(c) As used in this section, "dean's list" means a list, however denominated, that honors meritorious academic achievement, as determined by the eligible postsecondary institution, during a semester in which the student, who achieves such honor, is enrolled full-time.

(d) No retroactive award of a Tennessee HOPE scholarship shall be made under this section for semester hours attempted before qualifying for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship or in order to regain a scholarship.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it, and shall apply to students seeking postsecondary financial assistance from net lottery proceeds for the 2008-2009 academic year and academic years thereafter.